REASONS

FOR

CONFORMITY

TO THE

Church of England,

AS BY LAW ESTABLISH'D.

19 Aug 1699.

By R. SHERDLEY, *who was formerly a* Presbyterian *Minister in the City of* Kilkeny, *in* Ireland.

THE Actions and Designs of all Men have their Ultimates: So has the Author in this small Tract: It is not to be accounted Famous or Learned; neither does he hope to baniſh Schiſm, (that curſed Title which all Men hate, yet nouriſh'd by many) out of a Kingdom where the Church of God is ſo eminently Glorified; but he is a Stranger here, and all Men that ſee him have their private Sentiments of him; ſome by Information, believe him a Cheat, and an Impoſtor; others, one of the Regular Prieſts crept out of *Ireland*, purſuant to a late Act of Parliament made there; but 'tis commonly reported of him thus, eſpecially by ſuch who have ſome Knowledge of him: That he did really conform to the Eſtabliſh'd Church at *Kilkeny*, in *Ireland*, by reaſon of his irregular and immoral Life: For had he not left the Presbyterian Party when he did, he wou'd have been Excluded their Societies in an open Synod or Convention of Presbyters. To this the Author Anſwers, That this Opinion is falſe and groundleſs; for he has it under the Hands of the Mayor, Aldermen, Sheriffs, and Proteſtant-Inhabitants of the City of *Kilkeny*, affirming him to be a Man of a ſober Converſation; nay, he is not only thus fortified againſt malevolent Cenſure, but he has the

Hands

Hands of the very Presbyterians themſelves (who are ſtill Inhabitants in *Kilkeny*) declaring him to be a Man of an honeſt and regular Life: And further, the Provoſt and Senior Fellows of *Trinity*-College, near *Dublin*, in *Ireland*, have given him their own Hands to the like Truth.

Object. Now it may be objected, why the Author did not ſtay in a Kingdom where he was ſo well known for a Sober and Pious Man?

Anſw. *Ireland* was a Country very pernicious to the Author, as the Eminent Dr. *Gwither* of the College of *Dublin* can juſtifie, he never enjoy'd Six Weeks of Health ſucceſſively in Five Years Time: Moreover, *England* is the Land of his Nativity, and a Place where he enjoys a conſiderable Meaſure of Health, which Argument is ſufficient: But now 'tis reported, that he cheifly converſes with Diſſenters; and ſince the Church of *England* takes not that Care of him he expected, he is endeavouring to ſement himſelf with thoſe of his former Factious Acquaintance. Now he does hereby endeavour to ſatisfie the World, that notwithſtanding all diſreſpect whatſoever ſhown him by the Eſtabliſh'd Church; yet, as he has never done any Thing to caſt him beyond the Pale of that Church, he is, and hopes always to remain a Member and Well-wiſher of the Churches of *England* and *Ireland*, as by Law Eſtabliſh'd.

Now to conclude, he only mentions Two or Three of the Reaſons which induced him to Conformity.

I. Becauſe the lawful Commands, of a lawful Authority, are and ought to be obey'd in Things lawful.

II. The Commands and Injunctions of the Eſtabliſh'd Church are grounded upon a lawful Authority, and enjoyns nothing ſinful, nor in themſelves unlawful.

III. For (granting Validity of the former Poſitions) to diſſent from this Authority, were to draw a Church but of a Church, which is poſitive Schiſm.

Now the Author deſires the Reader to take Notice, that he does not pinch or ſqueeze too narrowly on the Term lawful, but freely allows the full Senſe the Term will bear.

FINIS.